

SENATE BILL 3836

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 36, Chapter 5; Title 39; Title 67, Chapter 4 and Title 68, to enact the "Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1102, is deleted in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 115, is amended by deleting Parts 1, 2 and 3 in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 3. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Athletic Commission Act of 2008".

PART 1

§ 68-115-101. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Amateur" means a person who has never competed in an unarmed combat sport competition or contest for any purse or item of value, other than for a prize or item of value which does not exceed fifty dollars (\$50), including reasonable expenses.

Combatants in an amateur event in this state shall be registered and sanctioned by an amateur organization recognized by the commission in order to comply with the provisions of this act;

(2) "Association of Boxing Commission" means the association recognized by state athletic commissions, which affiliate with such association regarding rules and regulations of unarmed combat sports. The association may also mean and be referred to as the "ABC Association for Professional Unarmed Combat Contests";

(3) "Application fee" means the fee due at the time an application for a license is submitted to the commission;

(4) "Banned substances" mean substances defined by the World Anti-Doping Association, in addition to any illegal substance;

(5) "Boxing" means unarmed combat to compete with the fists;

(6) "Combatant" means any person licensed who engages in an unarmed combat contest or event, whether or not the person receives remuneration;

(7) "Commission" means the Tennessee athletic commission;

(8) "Commissioner" means any member of the Tennessee athletic commission who has been appointed to serve under the provisions of this act;

(9) "Contest" means a competitive unarmed combat sport event in which licensed combatants compete for a purse or item of value greater than that amount authorized for an amateur event;

(10) "Department" means the department of commerce and insurance;

(11) "Event" means an amateur event in which combatants compete in an unarmed combat sport competition in accordance with this act;

(12) "Gross receipts" means the face value of all tickets sold and complimentary tickets issued, provided or given;

(13) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, sibling or child;

(14) "Kickboxing" means unarmed combat involving the use of striking techniques delivered with the upper and lower body, and in which the combatants remain standing while striking;

(15) "License" means the registration of, including but not limited to, a combatant ring official, promoter, matchmaker or manager doing business in the state of Tennessee and in accordance with this act;

(16) "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat using a combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including kicking, wrestling, and

striking, subject to applicable limitations set forth in this act and rules promulgated by the commission;

(17) "Permit" means an application and fee that may be established and collected, pursuant to the rulemaking authority of the commission, for amateur events or professional contests;

(18) "Promoter" means any person licensed who produces, or stages or sponsors any amateur event or professional contest of unarmed combat;

(19) "Professional" means a person who is licensed and competes in an unarmed combat sport contest in this state for the purpose of a purse or item of value greater than that amount authorized for an amateur event;

(20) "Purse" means the financial guarantee or any other remuneration for which combatants are participating in a professional contest or amateur event and includes the combatant's share of any payment received for radio broadcasting, television or motion picture rights;

(21) "Manager" means a person licensed who:

(A) Undertakes to represent the interests of another person by contract, agreement or other arrangement, in procuring, arranging or conducting a professional contest or amateur event in which such person will participate as a combatant;

(B) Directs or controls the activities of an unarmed combatant relating to the participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional contest;

(C) Receives or is entitled to receive at least ten percent (10%) of the gross purse of any professional unarmed combatant for services relating to the participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional contest; or

(D) Receives compensation for services as an agent or representative of an unarmed combatant.

The term does not include an attorney who is licensed to practice law in this state if the attorney's participation in any of the activities described in subdivision (A) is limited solely to the attorney's legal representation of a client who is an unarmed combatant.

(22) "Ring official" means any person who performs any one or more of the following official functions during the progress of a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat:

(A) "Referee" means a person licensed who is present in the ring during the professional contest or amateur event and exercises general supervision;

(B) "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in the state of Tennessee and who is licensed with the commission;

(C) "Judge" means a person licensed who is responsible for scoring the performances of the combatants in a professional contest or amateur event;

(D) "Matchmaker" means a person licensed who brings together professional boxers, kickboxers, or mixed martial art combatants or arranges professional contests or amateur events;

(E) "Second" means a person licensed who is present at any professional unarmed combat contest to provide assistance or advice to combatants during a professional contest or amateur event;

(F) "Timekeeper" means a person licensed who is the official timer of the length of the rounds and the intervals thereof in a professional contest or amateur event; and

(G) "Announcer" means a person licensed and authorized to act as an announcer at unarmed combat contests or amateur events.

(23) "Sanctioning organization" means an organization recognized by the Tennessee athletic commission that sanctions professional contests and amateur events of unarmed combat and is required to comply with all provisions of this act;

(24) "Show settlement" means the period of time directly following the professional contest in which the commissioner or commissioners shall collect the four percent (4%) gross receipts tax due, along with any other fees due to the state or the Tennessee athletic commission;

(25) "Unarmed combat" means and shall include, but is not limited to, boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing as defined and regulated under the provisions of this act;

§ 68-115-102.

(a) There is hereby created within the department of commerce and insurance, the Tennessee athletic commission.

(b) The commission shall consist of seven (7) members. Except for initial appointments, the term of office shall be four (4) year terms.

(1) One (1) member shall be a public member, to be appointed by the governor. The initial appointment shall be a four (4) year term.

(2) Two (2) members shall be licensed physicians with knowledge and experience in mixed martial arts and boxing, both to be appointed by the governor. One (1) member shall initially be appointed for a two (2) year term and one (1) member shall initially be appointed for a one (1) year term.

(3) Two (2) of the members shall have knowledge of and experience in boxing, with one (1) of such members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one (1) to be appointed by the speaker of the

senate. One (1) member shall initially be appointed to serve a three (3) year term and one (1) shall be appointed to serve a two (2) year term.

(4) Two (2) of the members shall have knowledge of and experience in mixed martial arts, with one (1) of such members to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one (1) to be appointed by the speaker of the senate. One (1) member shall initially be appointed to serve a four (4) year term and one (1) shall be appointed to serve a two (2) year term.

(c) All commission members shall be resident citizens of Tennessee.

(d) In making appointments to the commission, the governor and both speakers shall each appoint one (1) member who is either a racial minority or a female.

(e) All appointments shall be made from persons having or possessing the qualifications specified in subsection (b), which qualifications shall be determined by consultation with known and recognized leaders in the field of boxing and mixed martial arts.

(f) In making appointments to the commission, the appointing authorities shall be provided written proof of experience by all candidates for membership on the commission.

(g) A member of the commission who is appointed to an initial term of three (3) years or less may be reappointed for up to one (1) additional four (4) year term. Members whose initial appointments are for four (4) years and members who have been reappointed to a four (4) year term shall not be reappointed for four (4) years from the date the member's term expires.

(h) Four (4) members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the exercise of the authority conferred upon the commission, and a concurrence of at least

three (3) of the members shall be necessary to render a choice or a decision by the commission.

(i) No member of the commission or any member of a commissioner's immediate family shall, at any time during the commissioner's service as a member of the commission or, for one (1) year after the commissioner's term expires or the commissioner resigns as a member, be employed by a promoter of or promote any professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat, or have any financial interest in the promotion or sponsorship of those unarmed professional contests or amateur events. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to immediate family members who compete in a professional contest or amateur event.

(j) Except as provided in § 68-115-218 concerning the officiating ringside seat issued at no cost to the member, no member of the commission shall receive any other complimentary tickets, nor shall any member of a commissioner's immediate family receive any complimentary tickets for such professional contests or amateur events. Any such person found, by the commission after a hearing, to have received complimentary tickets shall pay to the commission a fine equal to twice the value of the complimentary ticket. All money received by the commission pursuant to this subsection shall be paid into the treasury pursuant to § 68-115-106.

(k) As a member of the commission, the commission members are officials in the executive branch as defined in § 3-6-301(19).

§ 68-115-103.

(a) A vacancy through expiration of the term of the public member shall be filled by appointment by the governor for a term of four (4) years. In the event a vacancy should occur other than by expiration of the term of a public member, the governor shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired portion of the original term.

(b) Vacancies through expiration of the terms of the members of the commission appointed by the speakers shall be filled by appointment by the appropriate speaker for a term of four (4) years. If a vacancy occurs other than by expiration of the term, the appropriate speaker shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the original term.

§ 68-115-104.

(a) The governor or speakers may remove a member of the commission appointed by them for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office, after first delivering to the member a copy of the charges and affording the member an opportunity of being publicly heard in person or by counsel to defend against the charges, upon not less than ten (10) days' notice.

(b) If such member is removed, the appointing authority shall file with the department a complete statement of all charges made against the member and the appointing authority's findings on the charges, together with a complete record of the proceedings.

§ 68-115-105.

(a) The members of the commission shall elect one (1) member as chairman of the commission, who shall serve in such capacity for a term of two (2) years, whereupon another member shall be elected as provided herein.

(b) The commission may purchase and use a seal.

(c) The commission shall exercise, subject to the provisions of this act, the following functions, powers, and duties:

(1) Ascertain the qualifications and fitness of the applicants for licenses and permits;

(2) Prescribe rules and regulations in accordance with the uniform administrative procedures act, title 4, chapter 5 for the administration of this act; and

(3) Conduct hearings and take appropriate actions, in accordance with the uniform administrative procedures act, concerning the issuance, renewal, revocation or suspension of licenses or permits or any other disciplinary actions deemed appropriate by the commission concerning all persons participating as a combatant in a professional contest or applying for or to whom licenses or permits have been issued pursuant to this act.

(d) The rules and regulations adopted by the commission shall include but not be limited to:

(1) The number and qualifications of ring officials required at any event or contest;

(2) The powers and duties of ring officials;

(3) The qualifications of licensees or permittees;

(4) The procedures for supplying a social security number, fingerprint sample and submitting to a criminal history records check; and

(5) The procedures for performing medical duties relative to contests.

(e) The commission may review all forms of contracts between promoters, licensees and combatants.

§ 68-115-106.

(a) The department shall employ an administrator for the commission.

(b) All money received by the administrator or the commission pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be paid into the treasury of the state and the same is hereby

appropriated exclusively to the department to be used in carrying out the provisions of this act.

§ 68-115-107.

(a) The commission shall meet at least quarterly but may meet as often as the duties of such commission require.

(b) The commission members shall each receive compensation for their service in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for each day the commission meets and shall receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the commission and for travel incident thereto, in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

§ 68-115-108. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

PART 2

§ 68-115-201. The commission shall have the authority to affiliate with any other state or national boxing commission, athletic authority, or sanctioning organization.

§ 68-115-202. The commission may review, with a promoter, all ring officials employed for a professional contest, and the promoter shall provide records, documentation or agreements, as may be required and requested by the commission.

§ 68-115-203. The commission shall have sole and full discretion, authority, management, regulation, and control of all unarmed combat contests, or events, professional as well as amateur, held, conducted, or given within this state, and such powers and duties specified in this act, and all other powers necessary and proper to enable the commission to execute fully and effectively all of the purposes, duties, and policies of this act. The commission

shall have the authority to declare the prize, remuneration or purse, or any part thereof belonging to combatants who are not honestly competing, forfeited. The provisions of this section shall apply to promoters, managers, or combatants who commit an act in violation of any order, rule, or regulation of the commission.

§ 68-115-204.

(a) The commission may issue and revoke licenses issued pursuant to this act for cause deemed sufficient by the commission upon a hearing as provided for in this act.

(b) License applications shall be in writing and shall correctly identify the applicant. Licenses shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance. Applicants for such license shall pay a biennial license fee to be fixed by the commission on a uniform scale, and a fifty dollar (\$50) nonrefundable application fee.

(c) The commission may deny an application for a license or grant a limited, restricted or conditional license for any cause deemed sufficient by the commission.

(d) Before any promoter's license is granted, the applicant shall file a bond in an amount fixed by the commission, but not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), executed by the applicant as principal, and by a corporation qualified under the laws of this state as surety, payable to the state of Tennessee, and conditioned upon the faithful performance by the applicant of the provisions of this act. In lieu of a bond, the applicant may deposit with the commission a like amount of lawful money of the United States or any other form of security. If security is provided in the form of a savings certificate, certificate of deposit or investment certificate, the certificate shall state that the amount is not available for withdrawal except upon order of the commission. All money received by the administrator or the commission pursuant to the

provisions of this subsection shall be paid into the treasury of the state pursuant to § 68-115-106.

(e) If the commission determines that the requirement for a bond is inadequate, it may require the promoter to make a deposit of money in an amount fixed by the commission. The deposit shall be made not less than five (5) days before the contest or event. Such deposit may be used to satisfy any obligation incurred by the promoter during the staging of the contest or event upon order of the commission. After the satisfaction of all such obligations, the commission shall release the remainder to the promoter.

(f) The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) do not apply to amateur athletic clubs.

§ 68-115-205.

(a) The commission shall establish a permit application and accompanying permit fee to be charged to promoters of all amateur events of unarmed combat in this state, the failure of which to pay shall be cause for denial of such application.

(b)

(1) The commission shall establish license fees for combatants in regulated unarmed combat contests and shall have the authority to establish any fees deemed necessary, including permit fees, for professional contests held within the state of Tennessee, the failure of which to pay shall be cause for denial of the application.

(2) Combatants shall meet all medical requirements as prescribed by § 68-115-206.

§ 68-115-206.

(a) All combatants, promoters, managers, and ring officials shall be licensed by the commission. No person shall participate, directly or indirectly, in any professional contest of unarmed combat unless the person has first applied for and received a license from the commission.

(b) The commission shall have the authority to examine the combatant's record, experience, skill and physical condition pursuant to the powers granted to it in this act.

(c)

(1) All professional combatants applying for a license under this act shall be required to submit, upon application, proof that a medical examination, including but not limited to a vision screen, has been performed and that a blood test for infectious disease has been taken within thirty (30) days of applying for such license or the renewal thereof.

(2) Professional combatants who are forty (40) years of age or older shall, in addition to the requirements of subdivision (1), have a neurological examination and submit a medical report within thirty (30) days of applying for a license or renewal thereof.

(d) An application for a license constitutes a request for a determination of the applicant's general suitability, character, integrity, and ability to participate or engage in, or be associated with contests of unarmed combat. The burden of proof is on the applicant to establish to the satisfaction of the commission that the applicant is qualified to receive a license. By filing an application with the commission, an applicant accepts the risk of adverse public notice, embarrassment, criticism, financial loss or other action with respect to the applicant's application, and expressly waives any claim for damages as a result thereof. Any written or oral statement that is made by a member of the commission or any witness testifying under oath which is relevant to the application and

investigation of the applicant is privileged and does not impose liability for defamation or constitute a ground for recovery in a civil action.

(e) The commission shall require a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee bureau of investigation on all commission employees and applicants for licenses. Each employee shall provide to the commission, along with the employee application, and each applicant shall submit to the commission the applicant's social security number and a complete set of fingerprints. The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall conduct a criminal history records check of all ring officials and employees of the commission. In addition, the rules and regulations of the commission shall state that to the extent permitted by federal law, and at the discretion of the commission, a check of such fingerprints shall be made against records maintained by the federal bureau of investigation. Such rules and regulations shall also provide that any costs incurred by the Tennessee bureau of investigation or the federal bureau of investigation, as appropriate, in conducting such investigations shall be paid by the person being investigated.

(f) Once an application has been submitted to the commission, the application may not be withdrawn unless the commission consents to the withdrawal.

(g) The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to fix a uniform scale of license fees.

(h) In addition to the application and license fees, the commission may require an applicant for a license to:

(1) Pay the costs of the proceedings associated with the issuance of the license, including, without limitation, investigative costs and attorney's fees; and

(2) Deposit with the commission an amount of money deemed necessary by the commission to pay for the costs of the proceedings. If any amount

required to be deposited pursuant to this subdivision exceeds the actual cost of the proceedings, including, without limitation, investigative costs and attorney's fees, the commission shall refund the excess amount to the applicant upon the completion of the proceedings.

§ 68-115-207.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), the commission shall keep confidential:

(1) Any information that it receives concerning an applicant for the issuance of a license pursuant to this act which is declared confidential by law and that is provided to the commission by another governmental entity or the Association of Boxing Commissions;

(2) Any information contained in an applicant's medical records, if the information is not relevant to the commission in determining whether to grant a license to the applicant;

(3) Any information relating to the financial records of an applicant or licensee; and

(4) Any information required to be disclosed to the commission and kept confidential pursuant to federal law.

(b) The commission shall reveal the information set forth in subsection (a):

(1) Upon the lawful order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

(2) To any person, upon the request of the person who is the subject of the information; and

(3) In the course of the necessary administration of this act.

(c) A person seeking an order of a court of competent jurisdiction for the disclosure of information described in subsection (a) shall submit a motion in writing to

the court requesting the information. At least ten (10) days prior to submitting the motion, the person shall provide notice to the commission, the attorney general and all persons who may be affected by the disclosure of the information. The notice shall:

(1) Include, without limitation, a copy of the motion and all documents in support of the motion that are to be filed with the court; and

(2) Be delivered in person or by certified mail to the last known address of each person to whom notice shall be provided.

§ 68-115-208.

(a) Every promoter, in order to present a program of contests or events of unarmed combat, may obtain a permit from the commission for each program not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date a promoter stages a contest or event.

(b) The commission may deny an application for such a permit or grant a limited, restricted or conditional permit for any cause deemed sufficient by the commission.

§ 68-115-209.

(a) In addition to the payment of any other fees and money due under this act, every promoter, except as provided in subsection (f), shall pay a professional contest fee of :

(1) Four percent (4%) of the total gross receipts from admission fees to the live professional contest of unarmed combat or five hundred dollars (\$500), whichever is greater, exclusive of any federal tax or tax imposed by any political subdivision of this state; and

(2) Three percent (3%) of the first one million dollars (\$1,000,000), and one percent (1%) of the next two million dollars (\$2,000,000), of the total gross receipts from the sale, lease or other exploitation of broadcasting, television and motion picture rights for that contest or event, without any deductions for

commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees, advertising, combatants' purses or any other expenses or charges.

(b) The promoter shall pay to the commission the four percent (4%) gross receipts tax described in subsection (a) at show settlement, during which time monies are paid to the promoter from the contracted venue.

(c) The promoter shall pay to the commission the fees for the rights described in subdivision (a)(2) no later than twenty (20) days from the date of the contest.

(d) The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply to all complimentary tickets issued for a contest or event. No more than one thousand (1,000) complimentary tickets shall be issued per contest or event.

(e) When any person fails to make any return and pay the full amount of the tax required by this section, there shall be imposed a specific penalty to be added to the tax in the amount of five percent (5%) of such tax if the failure is for not more than thirty (30) days, with an additional five percent (5%) for each additional thirty (30) days or fraction thereof, during which the failure continues, not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) in the aggregate. In the case of a false or fraudulent return, or in the case where no return has been filed and there exists a willful intent to defraud the state of the tax due under this section, a specific penalty of one hundred percent (100%) of the tax shall be assessed.

(f) A corporation organized as a charitable organization in accordance with the Tennessee nonprofit corporation act (§ 48-51-101 to § 48-68-105) which promotes an amateur event of unarmed combat whose net proceeds are to be spent entirely in this state, for the purposes for which the corporation is organized, is exempt from the event fees payable under this section. The corporation shall retain the services of a promoter licensed pursuant to this act.

(g) Every person required to pay a tax under this section shall keep and preserve records showing the amount of the person's gross receipts taxable under this section and such other books of account as may be necessary to determine the amount of tax under this section, and all such books and records shall be open to inspection at all reasonable hours to the commissioner. All such books and records shall be maintained by the taxpayer for a period of three (3) years.

§ 68-115-210. Any person who charges and receives an admission fee for exhibiting any live contest or event of unarmed combat on a closed-circuit telecast, or motion picture, shall, within ten (10) days after the professional contest, furnish to the commission a verified written report on a form which is supplied by the commission, showing the number of tickets sold or issued, and the gross receipts therefor without any deductions.

§ 68-115-211. Every promoter shall, within thirty (30) days after the completion of any professional contest for which an admission fee is charged and received, furnish to the commission a verified written report showing:

(1) The number of tickets sold or issued for the professional contest or amateur event;

(2) The amount of the:

(A) Gross receipts from admission fees; and

(B) Gross receipts derived from the sale, lease or other exploitation of broadcasting, motion picture and television rights of such professional contest or amateur event, without any deductions for commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees, advertising, combatants' purses or any other expenses or charges; and

(3) Such other matters as the commission may prescribe.

§ 68-115-212.

(a) The commission may suspend or revoke the license of, otherwise discipline, or take any combination of such actions against any combatant, manager, promoter or ring official who, in the judgment of the commission:

(1) Enters into a contract for a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat in bad faith;

(2) Participates in any sham or fake professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat;

(3) Participates in a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat pursuant to a collusive understanding or agreement in which the combatant competes in or terminates the professional contest or amateur event in a manner that is not based upon honest competition or the honest event of the skill of the combatant;

(4) Is found to have failed to give his or her best efforts, a failure to compete honestly or a failure to give an honest exhibition of his or her skills in a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat;

(5) Is found by the commission to have committed an act or conduct that is detrimental to a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat, including, but not limited to, any foul or unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat;

(6) Fails to comply with any limitation, restriction or condition placed on the combatant's license; or

(7) Is determined to have used performance enhancing drugs or violated any provision of the World Anti-Doping Association guidelines regulating substances.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not preclude the commission from taking action against any manager, promoter or ring official who violates any other provision of this act.

(c) The commission may also refuse to issue a license to an applicant who has been found by the commissioner to have committed any of the acts described in subsection (a).

(d) Any appeal conducted by an administrative law judge under this section shall be conducted substantially in accordance with the contested case provisions of the uniform administrative procedures act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, part 3.

§ 68-115-213.

(a) Every combatant competing pursuant to the terms of this act or regulation of the commission shall receive a copy of a written contract or agreement approved as to form by the commission binding the licensee to pay the combatant a certain fixed fee or percentage of the gate receipts.

(b) One (1) copy of the written contract or agreement shall be filed with the commission within five (5) days of the professional contest and one (1) copy shall be retained by the licensee or promoter of the professional contest.

§ 68-115-214. The commission shall, by regulation, require a licensed promoter or combatant to provide proof of medical insurance coverage for medical, surgical and hospital care, to cover injuries sustained by a combatant while engaged in professional contests of unarmed combat, in an amount of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

§ 68-115-215.

(a) The commission, its administrator, or any other employee authorized by the commission may order the promoter to withhold any part of a purse or other money

belonging or payable to any combatant, manager or second if, in the judgment of the commission, administrator or other employee:

(1) The combatant is not or has not competed honestly or to the best of the combatant's skill and ability or the combatant otherwise is in violation of any rules and regulations adopted by the commission or any of the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to, the provisions of § 68-115-212; or

(2) The manager or second violates any rules and regulations promulgated by the commission or any of the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to, the provisions of § 68-115-212.

(b) Upon the withholding of any part of a purse or other money pursuant to this section, the commission shall immediately schedule a hearing on the matter, and provide adequate notice to all interested parties prior to such hearing.

(c) If it is determined that a combatant, manager, second or ringside official is not entitled to any part of his share of the purse or other money, the promoter shall pay the money over to the commission. Subject to the provisions of subsection (d), all money received by the administrator or the commission shall be paid into the treasury of the state pursuant to § 68-115-106.

(d) Money turned over to the commission pending final action in any matter shall be credited to the athletic commission's agency account and shall remain in such account until the commission orders its disposition in accordance with the final action taken.

(e)

(1) Unless otherwise stipulated by the promoter and combatant by contract, the combatant shall be paid the purse at show settlement.

(2) All contracts entered into between a combatant and a promoter shall include a provision that entitles the combatant, upon obtaining a favorable judgment by a court, to recover all costs, prejudgment interests and attorney fees, the right to which shall not be waived in any such contract.

§ 68-115-216.

(a) The commission may require a sanctioning organization that participates in amateur events or professional contests of unarmed combat in this state to register with the commission before it participates, directly or indirectly, in any professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat.

(b) If such registration is required, the commission shall adopt rules and regulations that prescribe, without limitation, the requirements for registration and any fees for registration.

(c) The commission may require a sanctioning organization that applies for registration to:

(1) Pay the costs of the proceedings relating to the issuance of the registration, including, without limitation, investigative costs and attorney's fees; and

(2) Deposit with the commission an amount of money deemed necessary by the commission to pay for the costs of the proceedings. If any amount required to be deposited pursuant to this subdivision exceeds the actual cost of the proceedings, including, without limitation, investigative costs and attorney's fees, the commission shall refund the excess amount to the sanctioning organization upon the completion of the proceedings.

§ 68-115-217.

(a) A promoter shall, at least seventy-two (72) hours before a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat, or combination of a contest or event to be held, file with the commission's administrator a copy of all contracts entered into for the sale, lease or other exploitation of television rights for the professional contest or amateur event.

(b) The promoter shall keep detailed records of the accounts and other documents related to the promoter's receipts from the sale, lease or other exploitation on the television rights for a professional contest or amateur event, and the commission, department or any other state agency may inspect these accounts and documents at any time to determine the amount of the total gross receipts received by the promoter from the television rights.

(c) If a promoter fails to comply with the requirements of this section, the commission may determine the amount of the total gross receipts from the sale, lease or other exploitation of television rights for the contest or event and assess the appropriate license fee pursuant to § 68-115-207.

(d) Each contract filed with the commission pursuant to this section is confidential and is not a public record.

§ 68-115-218. Each promoter of a professional contest of unarmed combat is in charge of all seating arrangements and shall furnish, at no cost to no more than two (2) members of the commission who are present and working in their capacity as commissioners at the contest, an officiating ringside seat. For the purposes of this section, "officiating ringside seat" means a seat located ringside at a professional contest or amateur event.

§ 68-115-219.

(a) If disciplinary action is taken against a person pursuant to § 68-115-105(c)(3) by the commission pursuant to this act based on the conduct of such person which

either directly or indirectly relates to a professional contest or amateur event of unarmed combat, the commission may, in lieu of or in addition to revoking or suspending a license or permit issued to the person, prescribe a penalty not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

(b) If disciplinary action is taken against a person pursuant to this act, including, but not limited to, a hearing for the revocation of a license, and the disciplinary action relates to:

- (1) The preparation for a contest or an event of unarmed combat;
- (2) The occurrence of a contest or an event of unarmed combat; or
- (3) Any other action taken in conjunction with a contest or an event of unarmed combat,

the commission may prescribe a penalty pursuant to subsection (c).

(c) A penalty prescribed by the commission pursuant to subsection (b):

- (1) Shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or one hundred percent (100%) of the share of the purse to which the holder of the license is entitled for the contest or event, whichever amount is greater; and
- (2) May be imposed in addition to or in lieu of any other disciplinary action that is taken against the person by the commission.

(d) If disciplinary action is taken against a person pursuant to this act, the commission may require the person against whom such action is taken to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney's fees.

§ 68-115-220.

(a) The commission may reinstate a revoked license upon receipt of an application and the payment of a penalty prescribed by the commission, not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

PART 3

§ 68-115-301. The provisions of this act do not apply to any amateur events of unarmed combat conducted by or participated in exclusively by any school, college or university or by any association or organization of a school, college or university, when each combatant in the event is a bona fide student in the school, college or university.

§ 68-115-302. A violation of this act is a Class A misdemeanor.

PART 4

§ 68-115-401. The administrator of the commission, a member of the commission, or a member of the staff of the commission shall be present at all weigh-ins, medical examinations and professional contests, and shall ensure that the rules are strictly enforced.

§ 68-115-402. Every combatant in an unarmed combat contest shall be present and weighed in at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, at the discretion of the commission.

§ 68-115-403.

(a) All combatants shall be required to submit to a physical examination, a random urine drug screen to determine the use of banned or illegal substances, and a vision screen within twenty-four (24) hours of the professional contest. Other examinations may also be required by the commission pursuant to this subsection.

(b) All physical examinations required pursuant to subsection (a) shall be performed by a physician licensed in the state of Tennessee and licensed by the commission prior to the professional contest.

(c) A combatant shall be subject to additional blood testing for infectious diseases if more than ninety (90) days have elapsed since the combatant's license was issued.

§ 68-115-404.

(a) Immediately following the professional contest, the physician shall examine each combatant who has lost as the result of a technical knockout (TKO) or knockout (KO).

(b) After examining a combatant who has lost as a result of a TKO or KO, the ringside physician may require the combatant to undergo a neurological examination.

(c) If a loss of consciousness has occurred resulting from a TKO or KO, the combatant shall undergo neurological testing and shall not be permitted to participate in any professional contest or amateur event until the test has been conducted and the combatant has been determined to be medically fit to compete by a neurologist. All neurological reports shall be submitted to the commission for its review before the combatant may be permitted to compete in a subsequent professional contest or amateur event.

(d) A random drug screen, physical examination or any other examination may be performed or requested immediately following a contest by the commission, based on a ringside physician's recommendation. A commissioner or a representative of the commission shall be present at such screens or examinations.

(e)

(1) An ambulance or other emergency vehicle shall remain on the premises at all times during a professional contest, the cost of which shall be determined in contract entered into between the promoter and the venue or place where contest or event is taking place.

(2) A two-member licensed emergency medical team consisting of one (1) paramedic shall remain on the premises at all times during a professional contest.

(3) The most direct and unobstructed route to the ambulance or other emergency medical vehicle shall be made available for medical officials.

(4) Emergency medical services shall be approved by the chief or the director of the local fire department or emergency medical service department or bureau of the city or county having jurisdiction over the professional contest.

§ 68-115-405. Combatants shall not train or compete under the influence of any illegal drug or legal drug used illegally, as recognized by the World Anti-Doping Association.

§ 68-115-406. Combatants shall report any and all medication they are taking to the ringside physician prior to a professional contest or amateur event. If the combatant is under the influence of alcohol or any stimulant, or is taking any controlled substance or other medication, which the ringside physician determines would endanger the combatant or the combatant's opponent, the combatant shall not be allowed to compete.

§ 68-115-407. The use of sports creams or other body lotions, creams or ointments is prohibited.

PART 5

§ 68-115-501. All kickboxing and mixed martial arts contests or events shall be conducted in rings as follows:

(1) For kickboxing contests or events, the ring or fighting area shall meet the following requirements:

(A) **Ring.** The ring shall be not less than eighteen feet (18') square within the ropes. The ring floor shall extend beyond the ropes not less than eighteen inches (18"). The ring floor shall be padded in a manner as approved by the commission. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform.

(B) **Height of Ring.** The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building, and shall be equipped with suitable steps for use by combatants. Ring posts shall be metal, not more than four inches (4") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of fifty-eight inches (58") above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded.

(C) **Ring Ropes.** Ring ropes shall be at least four (4) in number, not less than one inch (1") in diameter; the lower rope eighteen inches (18") above the ring floor, the second rope thirty inches (30") above the ring floor, the third rope forty-two inches (42") above the ring floor, and the fourth rope fifty-four inches (54") above the ring floor. The lower rope shall have applied around it a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") and of a type and construction to be approved by the commission.

(2) For all other types of mixed martial arts contests or events, the ring or fighting area shall meet the requirements set forth in this section as follows:

(A) The ring or fighting area shall be no smaller than twenty feet (20') by twenty feet (20') and no larger than thirty-two feet (32') by thirty-two (32'). A ring enclosed by ropes shall be square. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area enclosed by ropes shall extend at least twenty inches (20") beyond the ropes. The ring floor or floor of the fighting area shall be padded in a manner approved by the commission. Padding shall extend beyond the ring or fighting area and over the edge of the platform. The ring or fighting area shall have a canvas covering or similar material, tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Vinyl or other plastic rubberized covering shall not be permitted. There shall not be any obstruction or object, including but not limited to a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.

(B) The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building. A ring enclosed by ropes shall have three (3) sets of suitable steps or ramps, one for use by each of the combatants and one for use by the officials. A ring enclosed by a fence shall have two (2) sets of suitable steps or ramps, and two (2) entrances for use by the combatants and the officials. Ringside tables shall be no higher than ring platform level. Ring posts for a ring enclosed by ropes shall be metal, not less than three inches (3") nor more than six inches (6") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a maximum height of six inches (6") above the highest horizontal rope above the ring floor. Ring posts for a ring enclosed by ropes shall be separated from the ring ropes by at least eighteen inches (18"). The posts for a ring enclosed by a fence shall extend from the floor to the top of the fighting area and shall be no less than sixty-six inches (66") and no more than seventy-eight inches (78") above the floor of the fighting area. All posts shall be properly padded in a manner approved by the commission.

(C) The ring shall be enclosed by either of the following:

- (i) A fence made of such material as will not allow a combatant to fall out or break through it on to the floor or spectators, including but not limited to vinyl-coated chain link. However, the enclosure shall not obstruct or limit the supervision and regulation of the contest or event by the officials or commission representatives. All metal parts shall be covered and padded in a manner approved by the commission and shall not be abrasive to the combatants; or
- (ii) Five (5) horizontal ropes not less than 1 inch (1") in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest rope shall be not less than five inches (5") nor more than eight (8") inches above the floor. The second rope shall be not

less than eight inches (8") nor more than twelve inches (12") above the lowest rope. The top three ropes shall be spaced equal distance apart and not less than twelve inches (12") nor more than fourteen inches (14") from each other. The lowest rope shall have a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") applied around it. The horizontal ropes shall be tied together by vertical ropes not less than one-fourth inch ($\frac{1}{4}$ ") in diameter. If a ring is less than twenty-four feet (24') by twenty-four feet (24'), there shall be two (2) vertical ropes, spaced equal distance apart, on each side of the ring. If a ring is twenty-four feet (24') by twenty-four (24') or greater, there shall be three (3) vertical ropes, spaced equal distance apart, on each side of the ring. The lowest portion of each vertical rope, between the lowest horizontal rope and second rope, shall have a padding of a thickness of not less than one-fourth inch ($\frac{1}{4}$ ') applied around them.

§ 68-115-502. The promoter of the contest or event is responsible for ensuring that acceptable sanitary standards are met with respect to dressing rooms, water bottles, towels or other equipment. Physicians and commission representatives shall specifically check at every contest or event for violations of such standards. The ring shall be swept, dry-mopped, or otherwise adequately cleaned before the event and prior to each fight.

§ 68-115-503. Prior to the initiation of any contest or event, the commission representative shall inspect the ring or fenced-in area for safety and the promoter of the contest or event shall be required to make whatever changes to such area as are necessary in the judgment of the commission representative.

PART 6

§ 68-115-601.

(a) The following tactics are fouls in both kickboxing and mixed martial arts and shall result in a warning and loss of points as determined by the referee:

- (1) Butting with the head;
- (2) Eye gouging of any kind;
- (3) Biting;
- (4) Spitting at an opponent;
- (5) Hair pulling;
- (6) Fish hooking;
- (7) Groin attacks of any kind;
- (8) Putting a finger into any orifice or any cut or laceration of an opponent;
- (9) Small joint manipulation;
- (10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow;
- (11) Striking to the spine or the back of the head.
- (12) Kicking to the kidney with a heel;
- (13) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grasping the trachea;
- (14) Clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh;
- (15) Grabbing the clavicle;
- (16) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent;
- (17) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent;
- (18) Stomping a grounded opponent;
- (19) Holding the fence;
- (20) Holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent;
- (21) Using abusive language in the fenced ring or fighting area;

(22) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes injury to an opponent;

(23) Attacking an opponent on or during the break;

(24) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee;

(25) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the round;

(26) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury;

(27) Throwing the opponent out of the ring or fighting area;

(28) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee;

(29) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on the opponent's head or neck;

(30) Interference by the corner;

(31) Throwing in the towel during competition;

(32) Applying any foreign substance to the hair or body to gain an advantage; and

(33) Any other rules that may be adopted, including but not limited to the mixed martial arts unified rules.

(b) The following tactics are fouls in kickboxing and shall result in a warning and loss of points as determined by the referee:

(1) Arm bars;

(2) Grabbing or holding onto an opponent's leg or foot, and grabbing or holding onto any other part of the body;

(3) Punching or kicking a combatant when the combatant is down. A combatant is down when any part of the combatant's body, other than

combatant's feet, touch the floor. The combatant's opponent may continue to attack until the combatant has touched the floor with any part of the body other than the feet.

(4) Leg checking, which occurs when a combatant extends the leg to check an opponent's leg or to prevent the opponent from kicking;

(5) Purposely going down without being hit;

(6) Any use of throws or any takedowns;

(7) Holding and hitting;

(8) Hitting or slapping with an open glove; and

(9) Using the heel of the palm of the hand to deliver a blow to the face.

In addition to or in lieu of losing points, any combatant guilty of any of the foul tactics listed in this section that are applicable to the combatant's sport may be disqualified. The combatant's purse may be withheld from payment, and the combatant may be suspended. Disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the combatant shall be determined by action of the commission.

§ 68-115-602. Combatants shall not grab the ring ropes or fence at any time the two (2) combatants are in contact with each other during a bout in an attempt to stall action, trap an opponent, escape a technique, or otherwise gain advantage in the bout. Combatants may momentarily grab the ring ropes or fence to brace or steady themselves, gain or to maintain their balance.

§ 68-115-603. If a combatant grabs or otherwise secures any ring rope with a hand, arm, foot or leg during a bout or round to avoid a submission hold, the referee shall stop the bout or round and deduct two (2) points from the combatant who grabbed the rope.

§ 68-115-604. If a combatant continually holds the ring ropes to rest, pull himself or herself from the action, avoid the round or bout's action, or otherwise gain advantage in the bout

or round, the referee shall deduct one (1) point from the resting combatant, and two (2) points for each additional time such conduct occurs.

§ 68-115-605. Excessive grabbing or other use of the ring ropes in violation of these rules may result, in the referee's sole discretion, in a combatant's disqualification and an award of the contest or event to such combatant's opponent.

§ 68-115-606. The referee shall verbally instruct combatants to release the ring ropes or fence, when appropriate, prior to warning, deducting points or disqualifying a combatant for violating the applicable provisions of this act.

§68-115-607.

(a) In the case of an intentional foul, the referee may interrupt the bout or round for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover. A maximum of five (5) minutes of recovery time shall be permitted.

(b) When an intentional foul causes the bout or round to be interrupted for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover, the referee shall penalize the offending combatant guilty of the foul one (1) or more points.

(c) If the injured combatant is thereafter unable to continue, the offending combatant shall be disqualified. The offending combatant's purse may also be withheld, and the offending combatant may be subject to suspension. The disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the offending combatant shall be determined by action of the commission or the commission's representative.

§ 68-115-608.

(a) When a bout or round is interrupted due to an injury caused by an unintentional foul, the referee, in consultation with the ringside physician, shall determine whether the combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the referee sees, or if after consultation with the judges, the referee determines that a combatant is

unintentionally fouled and that the combatant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, the referee may order the bout or round continued after a reasonable interval, not to exceed five (5) minutes.

(b) If the referee or the ringside physician determines that the bout or round may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an unintentional foul or because of an injury inflicted by an unintentional foul which later becomes aggravated by fair blows, the contest or event shall be declared a draw, if according to the score cards, the contest or event was determined to be a draw at the time the foul occurred. If, according to the score cards, the combatant committing the foul was winning prior to the foul, the contest or event shall be declared a technical draw. If, according to the score cards, the combatant being fouled was winning prior to the foul, then that combatant shall be declared the winner.

(c) When an unintentional foul causes the bout to be interrupted for the purpose of allowing the injured combatant time to recover, the referee shall penalize the combatant guilty of the foul one (1) or more points.

§ 68-115-609. If an injury occurs due to a suspected foul that the referee was unable to see, the referee may, in his sole discretion, confer with the judges to determine where the foul may be placed. The referee may consider any, all or none of the opinions expressed in making his determination. The referee may, in his sole discretion, ask for a replay, if television equipment is available, of the technique in question before rendering his decision.

§ 68-115-610. Referees and judges shall score all professional contests and amateur events and determine the winner through the use of the ten-point must system. In this system, the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number. If the round is even, each combatant receives ten (10) points. No fraction of points shall be given.

At the termination of the professional contest or amateur event, or the termination of each round, as determined by the commission's representative present at the contest or event, the cards of the judges shall be picked up by the referee and delivered to the commission representative assigned to check the totals. The majority opinion shall be conclusive and if there is no majority then the decision shall be a draw. When the commission representative has completed verifying the score, the ring announcer shall be informed of the decision and shall announce the decision.

§ 68-115-611.

(a)

(1) If an injury is severe enough to cause the immediate termination of a contest or event, the combatant causing the injury shall lose by disqualification.

(2) If an injury is produced and the contest is allowed to continue, the referee shall notify the authorities and automatically deduct two (2) points from the combatant who committed the foul. Point deductions for intentional fouls shall be mandatory.

(3) If an injury described in subdivision (2) is the cause of the contest being stopped in a later round, the injured combatant shall win by technical decision, if the combatant is ahead on the scorecards.

(4) If an injury as described in subdivision (2) is the cause of the contest being stopped in a later round, the contest shall result in a technical draw, meaning the injured combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.

(5) If a combatant injures himself while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee shall not take any action in the injured combatant's favor, and the injury shall be the same as one produced by a fair blow.

(b)

(1) Any injury severe enough for the referee to stop the contest immediately shall result in a no contest if stopped before two (2) rounds have been completed in a three (3) round contest or if the contest is stopped before three (3) rounds have been completed in a five (5) round contest.

(2) Any injury severe enough for the referee to stop the contest immediately after two (2) rounds of a three (3) round contest, or after three (3) rounds of a five (5) round contest have occurred, the contest shall result in a technical decision, awarded to the combatant who is ahead on the score cards at the time the contest is stopped.

(3) If the injury described in subdivision (2) occurs, there shall be no scoring of an incomplete round.

(4) If the injury described in subdivision (2) occurs, and the referee penalizes either contestant, then points shall be deducted from the final score.

§ 68-115-612.

(a) The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for male kickboxing and mixed martial arts combatants:

- (1) Flyweight..... through 125 lbs. - No more than 3 pound difference;
- (2) Bantamweight..... 125.1-135 lbs. - No more than 5 pound difference;
- (3) Featherweight..... 135.1-145 lbs. - No more than 6 pound difference;
- (4) Lightweight..... 145.1-155 lbs. - No more than 7 pound difference;
- (5) Welterweight..... 155.1-170 lbs. - No more than 8 pound difference;
- (6) Middleweight..... 170.1-185 lbs. - No more than 8 pound difference;
- (7) Light Heavyweight..... 185.1-205 lbs. - No more than 12 pound difference;
- (8) Heavyweight..... 205.1-265 lbs. - No more than 40 pound difference; and
- (9) Super Heavyweight... 265.1 lbs. and over - No limit.

(b) The following shall constitute the applicable weight classes for female contestants:

- (1) Lightweight..... through 125 lbs. - No more than 3 pound difference;
- (2) Middleweight..... 125.1-135 lbs. - No more than 5 pound difference;
- (3) Light-Heavyweight... 135.1-150 lbs. - No more than 6 pound difference;
- (4) Heavyweight..... 150.1-175 lbs. - No more than 12 pound difference; and
- (5) Super Heavyweight.. 175.1 lbs. and over - No more than 15 pound difference.

§ 68-115-613.

(a) Non-title kickboxing contests or events shall not exceed ten (10) rounds, each round not to exceed three (3) minutes, with a rest period of not less than one (1) minute nor more than two (2) minutes, as specified by the sanctioning body. Except with the approval of the commission, title contests or events shall not exceed the maximum length or number of rounds specified in this subsection and in no event shall the rest period between rounds be less than one (1) minute

(b) Non-title mixed martial arts contests and events shall not exceed five (5) rounds, each round not to exceed five (5) minutes, with a rest period of not less than one (1) minute nor more than two (2) minutes.

§ 68-115-614. A combatant may win a contest or event by:

(1) Submission by:

(A) Physical tap out; or

(B) Verbal tap out.

(2) Technical knockout by the referee stopping the professional contest;

(3) Decision via the scorecards, including:

(A) Unanimous decision;

(B) Split decision;

(C) Majority decision; or

(D) Draw, including:

- (i) Unanimous draw;
- (ii) Majority draw;
- (iii) Split draw; or
- (iv) Technical draw.

(4) Technical decision;

(5) Technical draw;

(6) Disqualification;

(7) Forfeit; or

(8) No contest.

§ 68-115-615. All combatants shall attend the pre-fight rules meeting held the day of or the day before all contests and events, with the meeting to be conducted by the referee and a member of the commission who is present.

§ 68-115-616. All combatants shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.

§ 68-115-617.

(a) All combatants shall submit a complete background application.

(b) Combatants shall obey the referee at all times during the bout.

(c) Combatants shall act with proper sportsmanship at all times and shall obey the provisions of this act at all times.

§ 68-115-618.

(a) The ring costume for each combatant on a program shall be approved by the commission and shall include two (2) pairs of trunks or permissible apparel and a custom-made individually-fitted mouthpiece. Commission staff shall not approve ring costumes that are so similar as to possibly cause confusion as to the identity of the combatants.

(b) A combatant who is participating in a kickboxing contest or amateur event may, at the combatant's option, use padded footgear and shin protectors. Shoes shall not be worn either in mixed martial arts or kickboxing professional contests or amateur events.

(c) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the costume for each male combatant shall include a foul-proof groin protector, and shall be worn during all professional contests and amateur events.

(d) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the costume for each female combatant shall include a body shirt.

(e) Combatants may tape their wrists and hands but not over their knuckles. Pro wraps with tape and gauze are acceptable. Regular training handwraps secured by tape are acceptable. Combatant handwraps shall be approved by the referee prior to the beginning of the contest or event.

(f) Combatants' fingernails and toenails shall be cut and trimmed.

(g) Combatants shall wear a mouthpiece at all times while the bout is in progress.

§ 68-115-619. All gloves that are required for unarmed professional contests or amateur events shall be approved by the commission.

§ 68-115-620.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the contrary, female combatants shall be subject to provisions of this act.

(b) A pre-contest examination of a female combatant should include abdominal, breast, and pelvic examinations. Any female combatant shall provide the examining physician with the results of a pregnancy test performed on the combatant within the previous fourteen (14) days. If such results are positive, that combatant shall not be permitted to compete.

§ 68-115-621. A timekeeper shall:

- (1) Keep accurate time of all bouts or rounds;
- (2) Begin the start of the clock for each round, as initiated by the referee, including overtime rounds;
- (3) Give three (3) slaps to the ring mat or three (3) pounds on the table to indicate ten (10) seconds remaining in the round;
- (4) Blow a whistle to indicate to the referee that there are ten (10) seconds left in the round break;
- (5) Start and stop the bout or round clock for time stoppages as called by the referee; and
- (6) Signal the end of each round by the use of a bell, buzzer, or other available loud signal.

§ 68-115-622. A scorekeeper shall record and tabulate the scores and point deductions from all of the judges. All actual scores shall be placed on the master score sheet as they are indicated by the judges' scorecards. In the event there is a knockout or the referee stops the contest or event for any reason, the scorekeeper shall ascertain the exact time from the timekeeper. This will be recorded on the area marked on the score sheet.

§ 68-115-623.

- (a) The ring announcers shall fully represent the contest or event to the public in an official and professional manner.
- (b) If the ring announcer uses any profanity over the public address system in use at the contest or event, the announcer may be subject to a civil penalty up to the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) by the commission and banned from the contest or event.
- (c) The ring announcer shall read all the contest and event results.

(d) There shall be no talking by the ring announcer over the microphone or anyone over a public address system during a bout.

§ 68-115-624.

(a) There shall be no music played during a bout.

(b) Combatant entree music or event music with profane or abusive lyrics and or foul language is prohibited.

§ 68-115-625.

(a) All combatants shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) managers and seconds at ringside while the contest or event is in progress.

(b) Five (5) managers and seconds shall be allowed for title contests or events of national level or higher.

(c) All managers and seconds shall stay in their combatant's corner while the bout is in progress.

(d) If a combatant's manager or second leaves his corner area and goes directly ringside or fence side to an area outside their corner area where the combatants are engaged in combat, to coach their combatant, the referee shall stop the bout and make one (1) of the following determinations:

(1) Warn the coaching corner to stay in their respective corner;

(2) Deduct one (1) point from the combatant whose manager or second left their corner; or

(3) End the round, awarding the entire round to the opposing combatant.

(e) During the round breaks, only one (1) manager or second shall be allowed in the ring, while the other two (2) shall stand outside the ring ropes on the outside edge of the ring or on the floor. If the contest or event takes place in a fenced-in area, one (1)

manager or second is allowed on the fence area designated for such coaches to attend to that coach's combatant.

(f) Managers or seconds shall obey the referee at all times during the contest or event.

(g) Managers or seconds shall conduct themselves with appropriate and proper sportsmanship in all ways connected with the contest or event.

(h) Managers or seconds may spray water and apply ice to a combatant between rounds. The managers or managers or seconds are responsible to dry the corner area before the next round commences.

(i) Managers or seconds may discretionally use petroleum jelly on the face of the combatant.

(j) The managers and seconds may use only those substances approved by the commission to stop hemorrhaging

(k) Violation of the rules by managers or seconds may result in warnings, point deductions, and/or disqualification of that manager's or second's combatant.

§ 68-115-626. If a violation of § 68-115-625 occurs, the commission has the right to suspend the manager or second from working as a manager or second for up to six (6) months. If a suspension is imposed and the manager or second continues to work a combatant's corner while under suspension, such person shall be banned for up to two (2) years from any role on any future event as a manager or second as well as a combatant.

PART 7

§ 68-115-701. The following rules shall be applicable to boxing only:

(a) Clubs shall not schedule less than twenty-six (26) rounds of boxing, nor more than forty (40) rounds, except with the approval of the commission for a specific program. A standby competition shall be provided in the event an arranged card breaks

down, and if it is necessary to put on another competition in order to meet the minimum requirement.

(b) Each professional championship contest shall consist of twelve (12) rounds, each of three (3) minute durations, with no less than a one (1) minute rest period between rounds.

(c) Boxing weights and classes shall be as follows:

(1)

Strawweight/Mini Flyweight..... 105 pounds and under;
Light Flyweight/Junior Flyweight..... over 105 pounds to 108 pounds;
Flyweight..... over 108 to 112 pounds;
Super Flyweight/Junior Bantamweight..... over 112 to 115 pounds;
Bantamweight..... over 115 to 118 pounds;
Super Bantamweight/Junior Featherweight..... over 118 to 122 pounds;
Featherweight..... over 122 to 126 pounds;
Super Featherweight/Junior Lightweight..... over 126 to 130 pounds;
Lightweight..... over 130 to 135 pounds;
Super Lightweight/Junior Welterweight..... over 135 to 140 pounds;
Welterweight..... over 140 to 147 pounds;
Super Welterweight/Junior Middleweight..... over 147 to 154 pounds;
Middleweight..... over 154 to 160 pounds;
Super Middleweight..... over 160 to 168 pounds;
Light Heavyweight..... over 168 to 175 pounds;
Cruiserweight..... over 175 to 195 pounds; and
Heavyweight over..... 195 pounds.

(2) No contest or event shall be scheduled, and no combatants shall engage in a boxing contest or event where the weight difference exceeds the allowance as shown in the following schedule, without the written approval of the commission. In the event combatants are in different weight classes the weight difference allowance shall be that for the lower class. Such weight difference schedule shall be established as follows:

118 lbs. and under....	not more than 3 pounds;
119 lbs.-126 lbs.....	not more than 5 pounds;
127 lbs.-135 lbs.....	not more than 7 pounds;
136 lbs.-147 lbs.....	not more than 9 pounds;
148 lbs.-160 lbs.....	not more than 11 pounds;
161 lbs.-175 lbs.....	not more than 12 pounds; and
176 lbs. and over.....	no limit.

§ 68-115-702.

(a) The ring costume for each boxer on a program shall be approved by the commission, and shall include two (2) pair of trunks or permissible apparel, shoes, and a custom-made individually-fitted mouthpiece. The commission staff shall not approve ring costumes that are so similar as to possibly cause confusion as to the identity of the contenders.

(b) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the costume for each male boxer shall include an abdominal guard that does not extend above the boxer's hipline.

(c) In addition to the items described in subsection (a), the costume for each female boxer shall also include a body shirt.

§ 68-115-703. Unless written approval is obtained from the commission, a boxer who has competed anywhere in a contest or event of four (4) rounds or less shall not be allowed to box in this state until two (2) days have elapsed. Four (4) days shall have elapsed after a six-round contest or event, five (5) days after an eight-round contest or event, six (6) days after a 10-round contest or event, seven (7) days after a 12-round contest or event and ten (10) days after a 15-round contest or event.

§ 68-115-704. The ring shall be not less than seventeen feet (17') square within the ropes. The ring floor shall extend beyond the ropes not less than eighteen inches (18"). The ring floor shall be padded in a manner as approved by the commission. Padding shall also extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform.

§ 68-115-705. The ring platform shall not be more than four feet (4') above the floor of the building, and shall be equipped with suitable steps for use by combatants. Ring posts shall be metal, not more than four inches (4") in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of fifty-eight inches (58") above the ring floor, and shall be properly padded.

§ 68-115-706. Ring ropes shall be at least four (4) in number, not less than one inch (1") in diameter; the lower rope eighteen inches (18") above the ring floor, the second rope thirty inches (30") above the floor, the third rope forty-two inches (42") above the floor, and the fourth rope fifty-four inches (54") above the ring floor. The lower rope shall have a padding of a thickness of not less than one-half inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") applied around it and be of a type and construction to be approved by the commission.

§ 68-115-707. Combatants in all weight classes up to and including the welterweight class shall wear no less than eight-ounce gloves. In heavier classes, combatants shall wear no less than ten-ounce (10 oz.) gloves.

When two (2) combatants differ in weight classes, the combatants shall wear the gloves required for the higher weight classification.

All gloves must be approved by the commission.

§ 68-115-708. The following acts shall be considered intentional fouls:

- (1) Hitting below the hip line;
- (2) Hitting an opponent who is down, is getting up after being down or who is hanging helplessly over the ropes;
- (3) Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other;
- (4) Excessive holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch;
- (5) Wrestling, kicking, or biting;
- (6) Grabbing and/or holding the ropes;
- (7) Butting with the head or shoulder;
- (8) Hitting with the open glove, or with the butt of the hand, the wrist, the forearm, the elbow, the knee, and all backhand blows;
- (9) Deliberate use of the rabbit punch (hitting behind the head);
- (10) Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys;
- (11) Spinning and hitting;
- (12) Excessive taunting, abusive language or gestures;
- (13) Any unsportsmanlike act;
- (14) Hitting on the break;
- (15) Hitting after the bell has sounded ending the round, including the last round;
- (16) Hitting an opponent who is entangled in the ropes;
- (17) Pushing an opponent;
- (18) Continuous dropping of the mouthpiece; and
- (19) Striking a blow during intervention by the referee counting a boxer who is down.

§ 68-115-709.

(a) In the case of an intentional foul, the referee may interrupt the contest, event or bout for the purpose of allowing the injured boxer time to recover.

(b) Any boxer guilty of an intentional foul shall be penalized one (1) or more points as determined by the referee. If the injured boxer is unable to continue, the offending boxer shall be disqualified, his purse may be withheld, and he may be subject to suspension. The disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the boxer shall be determined by action of the commission or the commission's representative.

§ 68-115-710.

(a) When a bout is interrupted due to an injury caused by an unintentional foul, the referee, in consultation with the ringside physician, shall determine whether the boxer who has been fouled can continue or not. If the referee sees, or if after consultation with the judges, the referee determines that a boxer has been unintentionally fouled and the boxer's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul, the referee may order the bout continued after a reasonable interval.

(b) If the referee or the ringside physician determine that the bout shall not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an unintentional foul or because of an injury inflicted by an unintentional foul which later becomes aggravated by fair blows, the contest or event shall be declared a draw if the contest or event is stopped before the bell rings to begin the fourth round. After the bell rings to begin the fourth round, the outcome shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee or ringside physician stopped the contest or event.

(c) When an unintentional foul causes the bout to be interrupted for the purpose of allowing the injured boxer time to recover, the referee shall penalize the boxer guilty of the foul one (1) or more points.

§ 68-115-711. When the combatant is knocked down or, as the result of a punch, is knocked through the ropes, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to a corner of the ring, pointing to the corner, and immediately pick up the count from the timekeeper. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the count. No combatant who is knocked down shall be allowed to resume boxing until the referee has finished counting off eight (8) seconds. The combatant may take the count either on the floor or standing. The timekeeper, by effective signaling, shall give the referee the correct one-second interval for his count. The referee's count is the official count.

If the opponent fails to stay in the designated corner, the referee shall cease counting until the boxer has returned to it, and then proceed with the count from the point from which it was interrupted. If the boxer who is down arises before the count of ten (10), the referee shall evaluate the boxer's ability to continue. If the referee is assured that the boxer who has just arisen is fit to continue, the referee shall without loss of time, order both boxers to proceed with the bout. Should a combatant who is "down" arise before the count of ten (10) seconds is reached, and go down immediately without being struck, the referee shall resume the count where it was left off. If the combatant taking the count is still down when the referee has reached and calls the count of ten (10) or if in the opinion of the referee the combatant who was knocked down is in no condition to continue, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate a knockout.

If both boxers go down at the same time, counting shall be continued as long as one of them is still down. If both boxers remain down until the count of ten (10) the contest or event shall be stopped and the decision shall be a technical draw. If at the end of a round a boxer is

"down" and the referee is in the course of counting, the gong indicating the end of the round will not be sounded except for the final scheduled round. The gong will be sounded only when the referee gives the command "box" indicating the continuation of the contest or event.

§ 68-115-712. Three (3) judges shall score all rounds or bouts and determine the winner through the use of the ten (10) point must system. In this system the winner of each round receives ten (10) points and the opponent a proportionately less number. If the round is even, each boxer receives ten (10) points. No fraction of points shall be given.

At the termination of the contest or event, the referee shall pick up the cards of the judges. The referee shall then deliver the cards to the commission representative assigned to check and total them. The majority opinion shall be conclusive and if there is no majority, then the decision shall be a draw unless otherwise determined by the referee or commission representative. When the commission representative has completed verifying and totaling the scores, the ring announcer shall be informed of the decision and shall announce the decision.

§ 68-115-713.

(a) The provisions of this part shall be in full compliance with the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act (15 USC § 6301, et seq.), the regulatory guidelines adopted by Association of Boxing Commissions and any amendments made thereto.

(b) The Tennessee athletic commission is hereby directed to become a member of the Association of Boxing Commissions, with costs associated with such membership in the association to be paid out of commission revenue.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-231(a), is amended by adding a new subdivision thereto, as follows:

() Tennessee athletic commission, created by § 68-115-102.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. For the purpose of making appointments to the Tennessee athletic commission and for promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For the purpose of receiving applications for licenses, events and contests, this act shall take effect at such time as the commission has established a procedure for receiving and processing such application, with such process to be completed no later than October 1, 2008. For all other purposes this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.